

CLAIMS:

1. A method of monitoring the condition of batteries used to power one or more mobile radio units of a mobile radio telecommunications fleet, comprising:

the or each mobile radio unit providing to a data store information regarding the condition of the battery powering it by transmitting over the air interface information relating to the condition of its battery together with an identifier for identifying the battery to the data store; and

storing at the data store the battery condition information together with its associated battery identifier transmitted by the or each mobile radio unit.

2. A method of monitoring the condition of batteries used to power a fleet of mobile radio units of a mobile radio telecommunications system, comprising:

forming a database of battery condition information by means of the mobile units, in use, transmitting to the database over the air interface information regarding the condition of their batteries together with an identifier for identifying the associated battery to which the battery condition information relates.

3. The method of claim 1 or claim 2, wherein the battery condition information includes the current battery absolute capacity.

4. The method of any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the battery condition information is transmitted and stored with an identifier identifying the particular mobile radio unit.

5. The method of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the battery condition information is displayed by the mobile radio unit.

6. The method of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the battery condition information is determined by the mobile radio unit.

7. The method of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein a battery charger determines the battery's condition and communicates it to the battery or mobile radio unit.

8. The method of any one of claims 1 to 7, wherein the battery condition information is provided to the data store or database periodically, at regular intervals.

9. The method of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the mobile radio units automatically transmit the battery condition information to the data store or database.

10. The method of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the mobile radio units transmit the battery condition information in response to a request from the data store or database.

11. The method of any one of claims 1 to 10, wherein the transmission of the battery condition information uses the Short Data Service of a TETRA (TERrestrial Trunked RAdio) system.

12. A mobile radio telecommunications system, comprising:
a fleet of one or more battery powered mobile radio units, each unit comprising means for determining one or more parameters indicative of the condition of the battery currently powering it, and means for transmitting the determined parameters over the air interface together with an identifier for identifying the associated battery;
means for receiving from each mobile radio unit the transmitted battery parameters and battery identifier; and
means for storing the received battery parameters and their associated battery identifier transmitted by the mobile radio unit or units;
whereby the condition of the batteries powering the fleet of mobile radio units may be monitored.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the battery of the or each radio unit has means for monitoring and determining its own condition and, in use, communicating that information to its mobile radio unit.

14. The system of claim 12 or claim 13, wherein the battery condition information includes the current battery absolute capacity.

15. The system of any one of claims 12 to 14, wherein the battery condition information is transmitted and stored with an identifier identifying the particular mobile radio unit.

16. Computer software and such software installed on a computer software carrier for carrying out at least one of the steps of the method of any one of claims 1 to 11.

17. A method of monitoring the condition of batteries used to power one or more mobile radio units of a mobile radio telecommunications fleet substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.

18. A mobile radio telecommunications system substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to any one of the accompanying drawings.

19. A method of monitoring the condition of batteries used to power one or more mobile radio units of a mobile radio telecommunications fleet, comprising:
the or each mobile radio unit providing to a data store information regarding the condition of the battery powering it by transmitting over the air interface information relating to the condition of its battery together with an identifier for identifying the battery to the data store; and
storing at the data store the battery condition information together with its associated battery identifier transmitted by the or each mobile radio unit.

20. A method of monitoring the condition of batteries used to power a fleet of mobile radio units of a mobile radio telecommunications system, comprising: forming a database of battery condition information by means of the mobile units, in use, transmitting to the database over the air interface information regarding the condition of their batteries together with an identifier for identifying the associated battery to which the battery condition information relates.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the battery condition information includes the current battery absolute capacity.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein the battery condition information is transmitted and stored with an identifier identifying the particular mobile radio unit.

23. The method of claim 19, wherein the battery condition information is displayed by the mobile radio unit.

24. The method of claim 19, wherein the battery condition information is determined by the mobile radio unit.

25. The method of claim 19, wherein a battery charger determines the battery's condition and communicates it to the battery or mobile radio unit.

26. The method of claim 19, wherein the battery condition information is provided to the data store periodically, at regular intervals.

27. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile radio units automatically transmit the battery condition information to the data store.

28. The method of claim 19, wherein the mobile radio units transmit the battery condition information in response to a request from the data store.

29. The method of claim 19, wherein the transmission of the battery condition

information uses the Short Data Service of a TETRA (TERrestrial Trunked RADio) system.

30. A mobile radio telecommunications system, comprising:

a fleet of one or more battery powered mobile radio units, each unit comprising means for determining one or more parameters indicative of the condition of the battery currently powering it, and means for transmitting the determined parameters over the air interface together with an identifier for identifying the associated battery;

means for receiving from each mobile radio unit the transmitted battery parameters and battery identifier; and

means for storing the received battery parameters and their associated battery identifier transmitted by the mobile radio unit or units;

whereby the condition of the batteries powering the fleet of mobile radio units may be monitored.

31. The system of claim 30, wherein the battery of the or each radio unit has means for monitoring and determining its own condition and, in use, communicating that information to its mobile radio unit.

32. The system of claim 30, wherein the battery condition information includes the current battery absolute capacity.

33. The system of claim 30, wherein the battery condition information is transmitted and stored with an identifier identifying the particular mobile radio unit.

34. Computer software and such software installed on a computer software carrier for carrying out the method of claim 19.

35. Computer software and such software installed on a computer software carrier for carrying out the method of claim 20.